

Virginia Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
Advisory Committee



*2000 Annual Report*

# 2000 Annual Report

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# *Virginia Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Committee<sup>1</sup>*

## **Citizen Appointees**

Mr. Henry N. Azais  
*Manassas, Virginia*

Mr. Lloyd C. Dunnavant  
*Midlothian, Virginia*

Mr. Michael Farley  
*Goochland, Virginia*

Mr. Aaron S. Foldenauer \*\*  
*Richmond, Virginia*

Mr. Russell Foot  
*Chesapeake, Virginia*

Mr. Kevin Funk \*\*  
*Petersburg, Virginia*

Sheriff Terry W. Hawkins  
(Retired)  
*Charlottesville, Virginia*

Supervisor Mary K. Hill  
*Woodbridge, Virginia*

Mr. Anthony L. Johnson  
*Ashland, Virginia*

Ms. Jessica A. Johnson \*\*  
*Richmond, Virginia*

Mr. Richard Johnson  
*Hanover, Virginia*

Ms. Colleen Killilea, Chair  
*Williamsburg, Virginia*

Ms. Susan C. Laughrun  
*Hampton, Virginia*

Mr. Paul J. McNulty  
*Fairfax Station, Virginia*

Mr. Ty F. Parr  
*Chester, Virginia*

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*Richmond, Virginia*

Sheriff G. Harold Plaster  
*Chatham, Virginia*

Mr. Timothy E. Slayton, Jr. \* \*\*  
*Richmond, Virginia*

Judge Sharon Breeden Will  
*Richmond, Virginia*

## **Legislative Appointees**

The Honorable Janet D. Howell  
*The Virginia Senate*  
*Reston, Virginia*

The Honorable Brian J. Moran  
*Virginia House of Delegates*  
*Alexandria, Virginia*

## **State Government Representatives**

Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary, Superintendant  
*Virginia Department of Education*  
(Proxy: Dr. Lissa Power-deFur)

Mr. Carl Peed, Director  
*Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice*  
(Proxy: Dr. Larry Guenther)

Mr. Richard E. Kellogg, Commissioner  
*Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental  
Retardation, & Substance Abuse Services*  
(Proxy: Ms. Pamela Fitzgerald-Cooper)

Ms. Sonia Rivero, Commissioner  
*Virginia Department of Social Services*  
(Proxy: Mr. Forrest Mercer)

<sup>1</sup> Includes members as of July, 2001 and former members as at the end of the 2000 fiscal year, June 30, 2000.

\* Former members.

\*\* Denotes youth member. Youth members must be younger than age 24 at the time of their appointment.

## Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grant Programs

Virginia participates in three grant programs under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act: Title II Formula Grants, Title V Prevention Grants, and Challenge Grants. In addition, it offers One Time Special Fund Grants using unexpended Title II and Title V funds. These one-time grants have a brief three-month grant period of July 1 through September 30. In addition to the Title II base in the allocation amount, DCJS was awarded a special one-time accountability-based sanction (ABS) supplement during FY 2000.

The JJDP Advisory Committee reviews and comments on each of the Title II and Title V grant applications. It makes funding recommendations to the Criminal Justice Services Board which has final authority to award these grant funds.

### Title II Formula Grants

Title II funds are allocated to states based on their youth population under aged 18. To receive funds, states must be in compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act: deinstitutionalization of status offenders, sight and sound separation of juvenile and adult offenders, removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and reduction of minority overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system. For the 2000 fiscal year, additional priorities for new Title II funding in Virginia were post-dispositional programs for adjudicated children in need of services (CHINS), status offenders, and underserved delinquents.

Title II funds are awarded to local units of government or state agencies. Virginia's share of Title II funds in fiscal year 2000<sup>2</sup> was \$1,554,000. In FY 2000, funds were awarded to 44 programs. Of those 44, 10 were new programs. Programs already receiving Title II monies can apply for continued funding for up to four additional years as *Continuation Grants*. The Advisory Committee requires a clear description of program accomplishments and evaluation data on which to assess the merits of continued funding. After two years, community participation in funding is encouraged. The table below provides information about each of the funded projects.

The JJDP Advisory Committee awarded One-Time Special Fund grants to 1 state agency and 16 localities under Title II. Priorities are as for Title II grants. All awarded grants are for \$5,000 or less to localities and \$15,000 or less to state agencies.

<sup>2</sup> In Virginia, the 2000 fiscal year is July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

<b>Title II Formula Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2000</b>		
<b>Project Title Agency/Locality Contact</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
<b>First Year Grants</b>		
Functional Family Therapy Arlington John Bazaz; 703.228.4360	\$72,072	Therapy to adjudicated truant, runaway, and delinquent youth and their families.
Residential Services Intensive Aftercare Program Fairfax Joseph Fedeli; 704.246.3416	\$75,000	Intensive aftercare supervision for youth who are returning to the community and their families.
Youth Accountability Conferencing Program Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center Fauquier Lawrie Parker; 540.347.6650	\$51,465	Restorative justice program provides face-to-face meetings between juvenile offenders, their victims and their respective communities of support.
Community Assessment Team Hampton Walt Credle; 757.727.6188	\$54,534	Community Assessment Team to reduce time between adjudication and service delivery for hard-to-serve CHINS and CHINSup <sup>3</sup> cases.
Weekenders Program Parks, Recreation, & Community Services Loudoun Ann Miles; 703.777.0398	\$66,531	Supervised weekend community service for youth in post-dispositional detention.
Functional Family Therapy Court Services Unit Norfolk Walter Stone; 757.455.6100	\$73,354	Short-term intensive in-home therapy with youth who have been convicted of family-related criminal offenses and their families.
Juvenile Female Offender Extended Day Program Court Services Unit Petersburg Frances Brown; 804.733.2371	\$74,800	Family and individual counseling, needs assessment, parent support and education, and tutoring in an extended day program for female juveniles adjudicated CHINS or CHINSup.
Aggression Replacement Training & Education Sanctuary Crisis Intervention Center Roanoke Andrea Krochalis; 540.977.3324	\$74,972	Program teaches anger control management skills to juveniles before the court for assaultive offenses and supervises practice of these skills in home and community. Parental participation required.
ACHIEVE Program Shelburne Middle School Staunton Barbara Smallwood; 540.332.3920	\$74,994	Program for high-risk middle-school students designed to provide highly structured and supervised day. Family counseling and mentoring are major components.
Gender-specific Programming Middle Peninsula Juvenile Detention Commission Williamsburg Joanne Smith; 757.887.0225	\$73,578	Services for detained girls include substance abuse assessment and referral; decision-making, parenting, and health education; and relationship training.

<sup>3</sup> Child in need of services (CHINS) and child in need of supervision (CHINSup) as defined by the Code of Virginia, §16.1-228

Title II Formula Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2000		
Project Title Agency/Locality Contact	Funded Amount	Project Description
<b>Continuing Grants: 2nd Yr.</b>		
Weekenders & Anger Management Highlands Juvenile Detention Center, Bristol Tim Dotson; 540.669.0818	\$62,957	Weekend community service and anger management programs in two localities.
Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee City of Charlottesville Rory Carpenter; 804.970.3054	\$31,500 ABS funds <sup>4</sup>	A planning grant to assess services and create a system of services and accountability-based sanctions for delinquent youth.
Juvenile Services Assessment Project Chesterfield County Chesterfield Brad Hammer; 804.748.1212	\$13,725 ABS funds	An assessment of youth diversion and intervention programs to determine local recidivism patterns.
Barrios Unidos Violence Prevention Project Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Fairfax Clyde Jackson; 703.324.5353	\$72,761	A gang prevention program that provides leadership training, workforce preparation, and conflict mediation for youth age 10 and above in 5 communities in Fairfax & Arlington counties.
Rappahannock Regional Juvenile Accountability-Based Sanctions Project Fredericksburg Richard Martin; 540.371.3838	\$34,462 ABS funds	A planning grant for a utilization and outcome study of juvenile justice programs and analysis of information flow among agencies.
Violent Juvenile Offender Geographical Mapping Program City of Hampton Tracey Jenkins; 757.726.5400	\$30,213 ABS funds	A grant to expand geographical mapping technology to evaluate, plan, and research juvenile justice issues.
Accountability-Based Sanctions Program Loudoun County, Leesburg Vince Froehlich; 703.771.5373	\$34,563 ABS funds	A planning grant to collect and analyze data on court-involved youth to identify successful and unsuccessful interventions.
Intensive Supervision Manassas Court Services Unit, Manassas Jeffrey Homan; 703.792.6214	\$47,550	Supervision, in-home services and service coordination for high-risk youth who are CHINS, CHINSup, or delinquent and their families.
Accountability-Based Sanctions Program City of Norfolk Stephen Blair; 757.664.6020	\$34,720 ABS funds	Project to evaluate juvenile justice programs to determine which reduce recidivism.
Weekend Incentive & Sanction Program City of Norfolk Court Services Unit Kevin Moran; 757.664.7667	\$70,500	Alternative to formal probation/ parole violation charge for court-supervised youth. Includes 20 hours of supervised weekend activities including community service, counseling, and recreation with the balance of time requiring house arrest and electronic monitoring.
Prince William County Restorative Justice Program Prince William Phyllis Turner-Lawrence; 703.792.4073	\$32,874 ABS funds	A restorative justice program to conduct accountability conferences for offenders and victims to permit restitution and reparation to victims.

<sup>4</sup> Accountability-based sanction supplement funds.

<b>Title II Formula Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2000</b>		
<b>Project Title Agency/Locality Contact</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
<b>Continuing Grants: 2nd Yr.</b>		
Public Defender Review Advocate Public Defender Commission, Richmond Kelly Hellams; 804.371.8234	\$60,464	To initiate serious offender review hearings to review/amend terms, conditions, and length of confinement and to represent clients at those hearings.
Community Family Counseling Center City of Roanoke Office on Youth Marion Vaughn-Howard; 540.853.2349	\$35,000	Community planning team to coordinate juvenile and family counseling services and improve outcomes.
Community Needs Assessment City of Virginia Beach Barbara Brinson; 757.474.8492	\$35,000 ABS funds	A planning grant to review and evaluate the city's juvenile justice system.
Merrimac Coalition Middle Peninsula Juvenile Detention Ctr., Williamsburg Joanne Smith; 757.887.0225	\$35,000 ABS funds	A planning grant to assess services and programs for juveniles in juvenile justice system in 13 cities and counties.
Graduated Sanctions/ Continuum Wise County, Wise Paul Kuczko; 540.523.5064	\$67,900	Develop and implement a graduated sanctions program in four rural localities to increase services and accountability for its juvenile offenders.
Colonial Coalition Colonial Group Home Commission Yorktown Donald Willis; 757.890.3492	\$33,500 ABS funds	A planning grant to collect, analyze, and evaluate data on services and programs for juveniles in York, Gloucester, James City, City of Williamsburg.
<b>Continuing Grants: 3rd Yr.</b>		
Delinquency Prevention Project City of Charlottesville Lelia Anne Lawless; 804.970.3061	\$52,760	Assessment center to provide intervention services, sanction plans, and case management for juveniles referred by the court services unit intake team.
Law Enforcement Program Dickenson County Sheriff's Office, Clintwood Donald Viers; 540.835.9384	\$7,737	Law enforcement education program including college-level academic coursework and law enforcement agency placement components for youth aged 14-17. (ILECOP <sup>5</sup> )
Maximize Attendance Program (MAP) Fairfax County Court Services Unit, Fairfax James Dedes; 703.246.3343	\$58,736	Supervision for chronic adjudicated truants in a school district including school services, case management, parental accountability, school staff contact, classroom shadowing, assignment review, curfew checks, and wakeup for school.
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) Program City of Norfolk James Davis; 757.455.6100	\$27,563	Provides training for police officers and mental health professionals to identify traumatized children who have witnessed violent and criminal events. (ILECOP)

<sup>5</sup> Originally funded through the Innovative Law Enforcement Community Oriented Policing supplement (ILECOP) which was not reappropriated. Now funded with Title II funds.

Title II Formula Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2000		
Project Title Agency/Locality Contact	Funded Amount	Project Description
<b>Continuing Grants: 3rd Yr.</b>		
Crisis Intervention Program City of Norfolk Claudette Overton; 757.664.7663	\$55,955	Provides counseling to female children in need of services (CHINS), delinquents, and their families from earliest contact with the juvenile justice system.
Project Return Orange County Local Youth Services, Orange Rebecca Yellets; 540.672.0539	\$52,370	Attendance monitoring, counseling, and case management for court-ordered chronic truants.
Police Athletic League Program Petersburg Morris Jones; 804.863.2701	\$14,471	Tutoring, recreation, self-defense, educational programs, employment skills, computer tutoring for youth. For parents, a support group, parenting skills classes, computer training. (ILECOP)
Delinquency Prevention Project City of Portsmouth Gary Waters; 757.393.5461	\$25,708	Community-based crime prevention officer to prevent delinquency, reduce truancy, and promote positive youth development. Works in concert with neighborhood groups and the court services unit. (ILECOP)
Female CHINS Extended Day Treatment Program City of Richmond Nancy Ross; 804.646.3763	\$54,750	Extended day treatment program for females adjudicated as CHINS which includes assessment, treatment home visits, school attendance monitoring.
Youth Police Academy City of Richmond William Smith 804.780.7491	\$27,560	Introduces youth to community-oriented police principles. Involves youth in developing and implementing crime prevention/civic activities. (ILECOP)
School Liaison Officer Rocky Mount Police Dept. Rocky Mount Don Brown; 540.483.9275	\$23,366	School liaison officer who serves as a truancy officer. (ILECOP)
School Resource Manager Program Smyth County Office on Youth, Marion Norma Teaters; 540.783.3298	\$42,188	School resource manager and tutor to provide case management, attendance and grade monitoring, service referral, tutoring.
Juvenile Coordinator Wythe County Sheriff's Office, Wytheville Hon. Kermit Osborne; 540.223.6000	\$20,702	Juvenile coordinator to investigate juvenile crimes, coordinate referrals, and track juvenile offenders to reduce the incidence of juvenile crime. (ILECOP)



<b>Title II Formula Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2000</b>		
<b>Project Title Agency/Locality Contact</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
<b>Continuing Grants: 4th Yr.</b>		
Multicultural Family Project Falls Church Earl Conklin; 703.237.6622	\$9,638	Target group is Latino and Asian girls adjudicated delinquent or CHINS, who have a history of gang affiliation and whose parents speak limited English. Provides language-appropriate family counseling and parent groups.
OJJDP Improvement Grant Loudoun County Leesburg Vince Froehlich; 703.771.5373	\$21,562	Program to reduce and eliminate JJDP Act compliance violations by admissions monitoring, development of alternatives to confinement.
Restorative Justice Program City of Norfolk Kevin Moran; 757.664.7667	\$25,246	Restorative justice program with four components—victim/neighborhood community service, employment training, restitution, and victim-offender mediation
Day Reporting Center Prince William County Prince William Wayne Maffett; 703.792.7259	\$32,276	Day reporting center for serious and chronic juvenile offenders who re-offend or violate probation or parole. Provides supervised setting, substance abuse counseling, job skills training.

## Title V Prevention Grants

In 1992, the U.S. Congress added Title V priorities and funds to the JJDP Act. Title V provides a source of funds for states to award grants to communities for delinquency prevention and early intervention programs. Grantees must be in compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP Act, have an approved comprehensive delinquency prevention plan, and provide a match, either cash or in-kind, of at least 50% of the federal dollars awarded. Title V funding was first available in Virginia in 1995. Programs already receiving Title V monies can apply for continued funding for up to two additional years as Continuation Grants. As is true for the Title II program, the JJDP Advisory Committee requires a clear description of program accomplishments and evaluation data on which to assess the merits of continued funding.

Virginia was awarded \$860,000 in Title V Federal funds for fiscal year 2000. Virginia's funding priority for FY 2000 was at-risk youth. Ten localities received first year grant funding, three localities received second-year funding, and 6 localities received 3rd year funding. The table below provides information about each of the funded projects.

In the 2000 fiscal year, there were no unexpended Title V funds available for One Time Special Fund grants.

Title V Prevention Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2000		
Project Title Agency/Locality Contact	Funded Amount	Project Description
<b>First Year Grants</b>		
Project ALERT Alexandria City Public Schools, Alexandria Dr. Lawrence Joiner; 703.824.6616	\$64,499	Alexandria Links for Eliminating Recurring Truancies, a collaborative interagency program providing direct service, public education, and advocacy.
Buckingham County Mentoring & Truancy Plan Buckingham County Buckingham Ossie Harris; 804.969.6100	\$26,540	Works with at-risk high school students to increase self-esteem, career knowledge, and academic achievement. Provides counsel- ing & mentoring to elementary & middle- school students who are chronic truants & their parents regarding parenting, truancy, & other school-related behaviors.
Office on Youth & Human Services, Colonial Heights Eileen McHugh Brown; 804.520.9286	\$16,040	After-school program for middle-school youth offers mentoring program including pet care, photography, art, and martial arts. Includes parent education program.
Boys to Men Leadership Development Program Hanover County, Hanover Gail Taylor; 804.752.4228	\$38,285	After-school program for at-risk middle and early high-school boys offers leadership development activities, life skills training, mentoring, educational support, and community service.

<b>Title V Prevention Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2000</b>		
<b>Project Title Agency/Locality Contact</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
<b>First Year Grants</b>		
Project Legacy and Neighborhood Basketball League James City County, Williamsburg Howard Mason; 757.259.3167	\$43,310	Project Legacy provides programs for youth at high risk for substance abuse. Programs include tutoring, life skills education, parent/youth relationship building, recreation. The Neighborhood Basketball League is designed to promote academic achievement and prevent substance abuse.
Youth After School (YAS) Loudoun County Leesburg Ann Miles; 703.777.0398	\$65,000	After-school program for middle-school youth with life skills training, mentoring, and tutoring. Includes parent participation.
Project Doubleteam Youth & Prevention Services Lynchburg Amanda Dudley; 804.847.1879	\$16,862	Collaborative agency/school/ community program pairs high school athletes and elementary school students for basketball and mentoring.
Keeping Kids in School Newport News Rosanne Walters; 757.245.5635	\$39,327	Pilot program designed to reduce truancy in elementary school. Services include mentoring, tutoring, parent education and participation in community programs.
Community Day Reporting Center Petersburg Christine Petri; 804.861.3079	\$52,496	Community center for suspended youth. Offers school work and life skills sessions.
SWEAT Program Waynesboro Carol Blair; 540.942.6757	\$63,367	Students Working Effectively Against Truancy program provides tutoring, counseling, and community service activities for suspended youth.
<b>Continuing Grants: 2nd Yr.</b>		
Rural Virginia Juvenile Delinquency Turn-Around Project; Middle Peninsula/ Northern Neck Community Services Board, Saluda Cheryl Matteo-Kerney; 804.693.5068	\$65,806	Provides problem-solving, decision-making, and anger management training, mentoring, adventure-based programming, community service activities, job skills training to first-time offenders and at risk youth. Includes family involvement.
Parent Education Program Smyth County Youth Office Smyth County Norma Teaters; 540.783.3298	\$20,000	Provides intensive parent education for families of at risk youth and first-time offenders to stabilize home situations and prevent delinquency and youth violence.
Teens Against Silent Killers (TASK) Program City of Staunton Carol Blair; 540.942.6757	\$20,698	A delinquency prevention program for high-risk youth, aged 10-13, living in public housing. Offers community service activities, educational workshops, tutoring, field trips, life-skills training.

Title V Prevention Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2000		
Project Title Agency/Locality Contact	Funded Amount	Project Description
<b>Continuing Grants: 3rd Yr.</b>		
Youth Leadership Program Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority Alexandria Archie Morris; 703.549.7115	\$44,820	After-school pre-employment program for at risk and court-involved youth aged 10-15. Matches youth with job experiences in the community. Offers tutoring, computer, leadership training. Includes parental involvement.
YES Project Crossroads CSB, Farmville Amelia County Rae Moore; 804.392.9461	\$38,106	After-school program for middle and high school students offers tutoring, psycho-education support groups, life skills training, community service activities, parent education workshops.
Norfolk Assessment Center City of Norfolk Stephen Blair; 757.664.6480	\$68,115	Collaborative inter-agency program to identify, assess, and evaluate youth showing CHINS <sup>6</sup> behaviors and to intervene with youth and their families.
Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM) Program Nottoway County Schools Nottoway Linda Staylor; 804.292.7421	\$68,040	Conflict mediation programs and services in alternative and regular high schools to reduce aggression. Services in alternative school to assist in transition to home school. Parental and teacher involvement.
YES, Petersburg Petersburg Christine Petri; 804.861.3079	\$50,252	Provides resilience-building and independent-living skills to youth in public housing.
Truancy, Diversion, & Curfew Center Richmond Dept. of Juvenile Justice Services Nancy Ross; 804.646.3763	\$41,920	Collaborative inter-agency program designed to provide services to youth apprehended by police for early problem behaviors such as truancy and curfew violations. Provides psychological assessment, parent/child mediation, law-related education, music, life skills training.

<sup>6</sup> Child in need of services (CHINS) as defined by the Code of Virginia, §16.1-228

## Challenge Grants

The purpose of State Challenge grants<sup>7</sup> is to provide initiatives for states participating in the Formula Grants Programs to develop, adopt, and improve policies and programs in any of ten specified Challenge areas. During fiscal year 2000, Virginia focused on three of those Challenge areas: mental health needs of youth in the juvenile justice system, community-based alternatives to incarceration, and information sharing. Virginia's allocation for FY 2000 under the Challenge Grant program was \$184,000.

Achievements under the Challenge Grant program in the area of mental health needs of youth in the juvenile justice system were reported in the last annual report. This year, we will showcase the work that has been done in the area of information sharing.

An advisory committee including representatives of localities, the judiciary, and state agencies was convened. The group recommended three areas of inquiry: state and federal confidentiality laws; the culture of information sharing; and technology issues in information sharing.

Using Challenge funds, the University of Virginia Institute of Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy (the Institute) conducted a comprehensive review of the *Code of Virginia*, federal codes, and examined the "juvenile" or "children's" code in other states for confidentiality and information sharing provisions. In addition, the Institute conducted a survey of Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judges to identify issues in implementing Virginia Code. With the assistance of the Advisory Committee, the Institute developed an Information Sharing and Confidentiality Training Manual.

Juvenile Accountability and Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) Trust Fund grants provided additional support for examining the culture of information sharing. A grant to the Charlottesville Albemarle Youth Commission resulted in a survey of more than 140 juvenile justice and child-serving agency professionals. Through an additional grant, Virginia Commonwealth University conducted regional focus groups to collect additional information and to validate the Charlottesville findings with a statewide audience. The University of Richmond Law School, in association with VCU, researched breeches of confidentiality, liability issues and professional ethical standards related to confidentiality and privileged communications. A pilot training curriculum on information sharing is currently being evaluated.

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<sup>7</sup> The 1992 reauthorization of the JJDP Act of 1974 added Part E, State Challenge Activities, to the programs funded by OJJDP.

## Data Patterns in Juvenile Justice— Risk Factors for Delinquency

This section presents research and data concerning juveniles who are at risk for later delinquency. Information is excerpted from a more complete report, *Risk and Protective Factors for Delinquency*, which was presented to the Virginia Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Committee in June of 2001. For the interested reader, that report is available online at [www.dcjs.state.va.us/juvenile/resources](http://www.dcjs.state.va.us/juvenile/resources) or in paper form from the Juvenile Services Section, Department of Criminal Justice Services. It includes more detail on the risk factors, a section on protective factors, and a list of recommended readings.

In Virginia, there is evidence that more very young offenders than before are involved in the juvenile justice system. This increase is evident in complaints about both minor and major offenses. Minor offenses such as curfew violations, runaway complaints, and truancy are considered offenses because of the child status of the offender and are thus referred to as status offenses. The data show that complaints for status offenses of children aged 10 and under have increased sixfold from 1995 to 2000. An increasing pattern is also shown for more serious delinquent offenses. The number of children under aged 13 brought before the court with delinquent complaints has increased by 55% in six years.

Thus, in Virginia, we are seeing more very young children in contact with the juvenile justice system. For the most part, these are children who have not yet been confined in juvenile secure detention or correctional facilities. However, they are at risk for future, more serious, delinquent behavior. The risk of later serious, violent, and chronic offending increases by a factor of two to three among juveniles who start offending before age 13 compared to those who start offending at a later age (Loeber, 2000).

### What are Risk Factors?

Risk factors are hazards that increase the likelihood of a negative outcome such as delinquent behavior. The research indicating that multiple risk factors increase the probability of delinquency is quite conclusive, although some factors are better predictors than others (Hawkins *et al.*, 2000). In a 30-year longitudinal study, two-thirds of children with four or more risk factors by age 2 developed serious learning or behavior problems by age 10 and had mental health problems, delinquency records and/or teenage pregnancies by age 18 (Werner & Smith, 1992).

Risk factors can be divided into three categories: individual, family/social/economic, and educational. The risk factors that are the most important predictors vary, depending on the age of the child. Much of the information reported in this section about risk factors is taken from research done by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice (Hawkins *et al.*, 2000; Loeber & Farrington, 1998).

Individual Factors	Family/Social/ Economic Factors	Educational Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early pattern of bad behavior and aggression</li> <li>• Abuses alcohol or drugs</li> <li>• Hyperactivity or attention disorders</li> <li>• Uses a weapon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of social ties</li> <li>• Gang membership</li> <li>• Low socioeconomic status</li> <li>• Antisocial parents</li> <li>• History of being abused</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low academic performance</li> <li>• Low commitment to schooling</li> <li>• Low educational aspirations</li> </ul>

Information on all these factors is available in the complete report, cited above. Major contributing factors will be described here.

Individual Factors

There are a variety of factors individual to a child, which are known risks for delinquency. For young children, aged 6-11, the two best predictors of later violent or serious delinquency, across all categories, are an early pattern of bad behavior and aggression and early abuse of drugs or alcohol. Other individual factors such as hyperactivity or attention disorders and use of a weapon are important but less reliable predictors.

Early Pattern of Bad Behavior & Aggression

An early pattern of bad behavior and aggression is one of the more robust predictors of later delinquency. Statewide, it can be measured by age trends in court intake cases. Police, parents, social workers, school principals, or school attendance officers may bring children to court intake. Intake cases are classified as status offenses or delinquent offenses.

Status offenses are offenses such as curfew violations, runaway complaints, and truancy, which are considered offenses because of the age of the offender. The number of intake cases with only status complaints involving children aged 13 and under more than doubled in the period 1995 to 1998 (Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice)<sup>8</sup>. Examination of

Data—Intake—Status Complaints Only					
	1995	1998	Change 95-98	2000	Change 95-00
Age 10 & Under	81	328	+305%	518	+540%
Age 11	107	156	+ 46%	233	+118%
Age 12	263	432	+ 64%	490	+ 86%
Age 13	577	877	+ 52%	959	+ 66%
Age 14 -17	7334	6789	-7%	7572	+ 3%

these data, shown in the leftmost columns of the data box, shows that the group aged 10 and under increased by over 300% from 1995 to 1998. This is in contrast to the pattern shown for older juveniles. Those aged 14-17 show a 7% decrease over the same time period.

In 1999, the *Code of Virginia* was amended to require that each school go through a prescribed series of steps to handle truants. The intent of the law was to eliminate the practice of punishing truants by expulsion. The final step is a petition to court. In some localities, the result of the law has been a large increase in the number of truancy complaints petitioned to court. As truancy is one of the status offenses, these increases are reflected in the data shown in the rightmost columns of the data box. Again, the increases are most prevalent for very young offenders.

Delinquent complaints against young offenders also show an increasing trend. These are criminal offenses. They range from minor offenses such as shoplifting to major offenses

Data—Intake – Delinquent Complaints			
	1995	2000	Change
Age 10 & Under	612	908	+48%
Age 11	680	1002	+47%
Age 12	1359	2395	+76%
Age 13	2978	4408	+48%
Age 14 - 17	31365	39921	+27%

such as murder and manslaughter. Most are misdemeanor offenses. Of the felony offenses, most are property offenses rather than crimes against persons. For the group aged 13 and under, the number of complaints has increased by 55% and, as the data box shows, the increase—76%—is most notable for children aged 12 years. Comparatively, for juveniles aged 14 to 17, the number of delinquent complaints has increased by 27% over the same period. Overall, the data show

<sup>8</sup> Intake data do not include Fairfax County. Also excluded are data for those aged 18 and over (1995: 5974 delinquent, 800 status complaints; 1998: 39 status complaints; 2000: 1281 delinquent, 55 status complaints) and age unknown data (1995: 2494 delinquent, 307 status complaints; 1998: 46 status complaints; 2000: 195 delinquent, 50 status complaints).

Data—Arrests			
	1995	1998	Change
Age Under 10	1030	791	-23%
Age 10 -12	4449	4174	-6%
Age 13 -14	13375	12669	-5%
Age 15 - 17	36432	38450	+6%

that the number of complaints for both status offenses and delinquent offenses is increasing markedly for very young offenders.

Interestingly, arrest data show a pattern opposite to that shown for intake data. As shown in the data box, arrests have decreased for younger offenders and increased for older offenders. This disparity in the patterns of the data may be because more children

are brought to court intake than are arrested. Children are brought to the court service unit by parents, social workers, and school officials, as well as by police after arrest.

### Early Abuse of Alcohol or Drugs

For children aged 6-11, substance abuse is a relatively strong predictor of later violent or serious delinquency. In Virginia, the drug possession arrest rate per 100,000 juveniles varies from 0 per 100,000 in 33 localities to 549 per 100,000 in one locality. Over half of children in Virginia correctional institutions report a history of substance abuse (McGarvey & Waite, 1999).

### Data—Drug Possession Arrest Rates, 1998

0 per 100,000—22% of localities  
 1–50 per 100,000—22% of localities  
 51–100 per 100,000—18% of localities  
 101–200 per 100,000—21% of localities  
 > 200 per 100,000—17% of localities

## Social/Family/Economic Factors

Social, family, and economic factors such as lack of social ties, gang membership, parental criminality, antisocial parents, low socioeconomic status, and a history of being abused may contribute to delinquency. As with the individual factors, some social/family/economic factors are more important than others. Age matters. In contrast to the younger group for which an early pattern of bad behavior and early use of alcohol or drugs are the most reliable predictors, for the 12-14 age group, the strongest predictors across all categories are lack of social ties and involvement with antisocial peers, both factors related to interpersonal relationships (Hawkins et al., 2000).

### Importance of Peer Groups

Peer groups are important in adolescence. Children who are not involved in conventional social activities and are unpopular at school have a higher risk of becoming violent. These children who are rejected by or unpopular with conventional social peers may turn to delinquent peer groups. Having delinquent friends increases the risk for later involvement in violence. However, gang membership increases the risk of violence beyond the risk posed by having delinquent peers. For example, in two longitudinal studies of children in Seattle and Rochester (see Battin-Pearson, Thornberry, Hawkins, & Krohn, 1998 for comparison), gang membership more than doubled the rate of violent offenses over having delinquent peers, whether for self-report or court-reported offenses. One-third of youth in the Rochester sample were gang members but they accounted for 70-85 percent of serious or violent delinquent acts, and 70 percent of drug sales (Browning, Thornberry, & Porter, 1999). In Virginia, about half of localities report at least one youth gang in their vicinity (Virginia Dept. of Criminal Justice Services, Criminal Justice Research Center, 2000b).



**Data–Official Poverty**

**Children Living Below the Poverty Line:**

21% of localities: 0–10% of children below  
37% of localities: 11–20% of children below  
30% of localities: 21–30% of children below  
11% of localities: 31–40% of children below  
1% of localities: > 40% of children below

**Low Socioeconomic Status**

Low socioeconomic status is a moderate predictor of later violent or serious delinquency for children aged 6-11. For older children, it is a poor predictor. For 1995, the U.S. Census Bureau defined the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children at \$15,455. As the data box shows, the range of economic circum-

stances for children in Virginia localities in 1995 was tremendous, from 4% of children living below the poverty line in one locality to 42% of children living below the poverty line in another.

Children born to single mothers are more likely to be poor. The data box shows variability among Virginia localities in the percentage of births to single mothers with a range from 10% to 69% (Action Alliance for Virginia’s Children & Youth). For the State, the percentage is 29.3. Many of these single mothers are adolescents. In Virginia localities, the rate of live births to adolescent mothers (age 10-19) ranges from 4.5/1000 female population to 60.7/1000 female population<sup>9</sup> (Virginia Department of Health). Eighty-three percent of adolescents who give birth are from households that are economically disadvantaged (Franklin, Corcoran, & Ayers-Lopez, 1997).

**Data–Percentage of Births to Single Mothers**

13% of localities: 1–20% of births to single moms  
61% of localities: 21–40% of births to single moms  
26% of localities: 41–60% of births to single moms  
1% of localities: > 60% of births to single moms

**History of Abuse**

**Data–Founded Child Abuse Cases Per 1000 Juvenile Population**

**Range:** 0/1000 - 21.7/1000  
**Distribution:**  
• 51.6% of localities: 0– 4/1000  
• 32.8% of localities: 5– 9/1000  
• 11.9% of localities: 10–14/1000  
• 3.7% of localities: >14/1000

A history of being abused or neglected is a known risk factor for children, particularly for more serious forms of delinquency (Kelly, Thornberry & Smith, 1997). For the State, the rate of founded child abuse cases<sup>10</sup> is 4.95 cases per 1000 juvenile population. There is considerable variability among Virginia localities. Three localities, for example, report no founded child abuse cases. But, as the data box shows, 3.7% of Virginia localities report a rate of over 14 cases per 1000 juvenile population. One locality reports a rate of 21.7 founded cases per 1000 juvenile population.

**School Factors**

School-related experiences such as low academic performance, low commitment to schooling, and low educational aspirations are factors that put children at risk for delinquency. For children aged 12-14, school attitude and performance are moderate predictors of later violent or serious delinquency. For younger children, aged 6-11, they are poor predictors (Hawkins et al., 2000). However, for children who are already at high risk, Werner (1993) found that effective reading skills by Grade 4 were one of the most potent predictors of

<sup>9</sup> For children under aged 15, the population is the estimated female population aged 10-14. For the 15-19 year old group, the population is the estimated female population aged 15-19 (Virginia Department of Health).  
<sup>10</sup> Rates were computed by the formula: [number of children abused (founded cases)/juvenile population]. The number of founded abuse cases was taken from the Virginia Department of Social Services web site: [www.dss.state.va.us/pub/pdf/cps\\_98-99\\_child.pdf](http://www.dss.state.va.us/pub/pdf/cps_98-99_child.pdf). The juvenile population was taken from the web site of the U.S. Census Bureau: [www.census.gov/population/estimates/county/ca/cava99.txt](http://www.census.gov/population/estimates/county/ca/cava99.txt).

successful adult adaptation. Such children profited from short-term remedial work in the first three grades.

## Low Academic Performance

### Data–National Rank for Public Schools in Virginia Localities on Grade 9 Reading Test

1% of localities:	> 80th percentile rank
5% of localities:	71st–80th percentile rank
29% of localities:	61st–70th percentile rank
39% of localities:	51st–60th percentile rank
26% of localities:	< 50th percentile rank

When academic performance is low, opportunities for future education and training are reduced and the risk of delinquency increases. The academic performance of students in Virginia varies depending on where they live, as shown in the data box. On a grade 9 national test

of reading (Virginia Department of Education, 2000), public schools in Virginia localities ranked from the 34th percentile to the 81st percentile. Children in some localities did well; others did quite poorly.

## Low Commitment to Schooling

Truancy rates provide a measure of low commitment to schooling. In the 1999/2000 school year in Virginia public schools, the truancy rate for public school students ranged from 0/1000 students in over half of Virginia localities to 426/1000 students<sup>11</sup>.

### Data–Truancy Rates per 1000 Students 1999/2000 School Year

0– 50 truants/1000 students:	54% of localities
51–100 truants/1000 students:	28% of localities
101–200 truants/1000 students:	12% of localities
> 200 truants/1000 students:	6% of localities

## Low Educational Aspirations

### Data–Early Dropout Rates per 1000 Students

0 dropouts:	42% of localities
>0-10 dropouts:	41% of localities
11-20 dropouts:	16% of localities
21-30 dropouts:	0% of localities
>30 dropouts:	2% of localities

One of the risk factors is low educational aspirations. These are children who do not dream of a better life through education. In Virginia, most localities have few or no dropouts in public schools prior to grade 9 (Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, & Substance Abuse Services, 2001). However, as the data box shows, in some localities more than 1 child per 100 drops out before grade 9 and in a few localities more than 3 drop out prior to grade 9. The range is

from 0/1000 (55 localities) to 33/1000.

## Conclusion

Although children can cope with one or two risk factors, multiple factors are predictive of negative outcomes. Many of these risk factors for delinquency, discussed above, can be identified early in a child's life. The developmental pathways that lead to delinquency for boys have been identified also, along with the types of behavior that are typical within each pathway, and how those behaviors escalate (Kelley, Loeber, Keenan, & DeLamarte, 1997). From that research, it is clear that there is not just one pathway to delinquency; there are several. In recent years, much work has been done to develop and test successful intervention programs in communities around the United States. Effective intervention strategies address multiple risk factors and promote resiliency. Some of those programs are described in the references listed under Suggestions for Further Reading in the full report, cited above.

<sup>11</sup> Some of these rates are artificially inflated. For example, in one locality, children were counted as truant when they were removed from summer school, with parental permission.

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## Requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

To receive funding under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act, states are required to comply with four core requirements of the Act: deinstitutionalization of status offenders, sight and sound separation of juvenile and adult offenders, removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and reduction of minority overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system.

Virginia has gone beyond the federal requirements for compliance monitoring by creating a system of record-keeping and on-site inspection that ensures that all juvenile facilities are continuously monitored and receive on-site inspection at least annually.

In 1994, the Virginia Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Advisory Committee developed a policy that limits Title II grant funding to any locality that has demonstrated an unjustifiable pattern of compliance violations. A special Compliance Improvement funding category is available to these localities. To access these funds, the locality is required to establish a corrective action plan, agree to self-reporting of all new violations, and be subject to quarterly on-site compliance monitoring inspections until it demonstrates that no violations have occurred for a full calendar year.

Annual training regarding the JJDP Act and the *Code of Virginia* is provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Services to juvenile justice system professionals such as Court Service Unit Directors, Juvenile and Domestic Court Judges, Detention Home Superintendents, sheriffs, police and other law enforcement personnel.

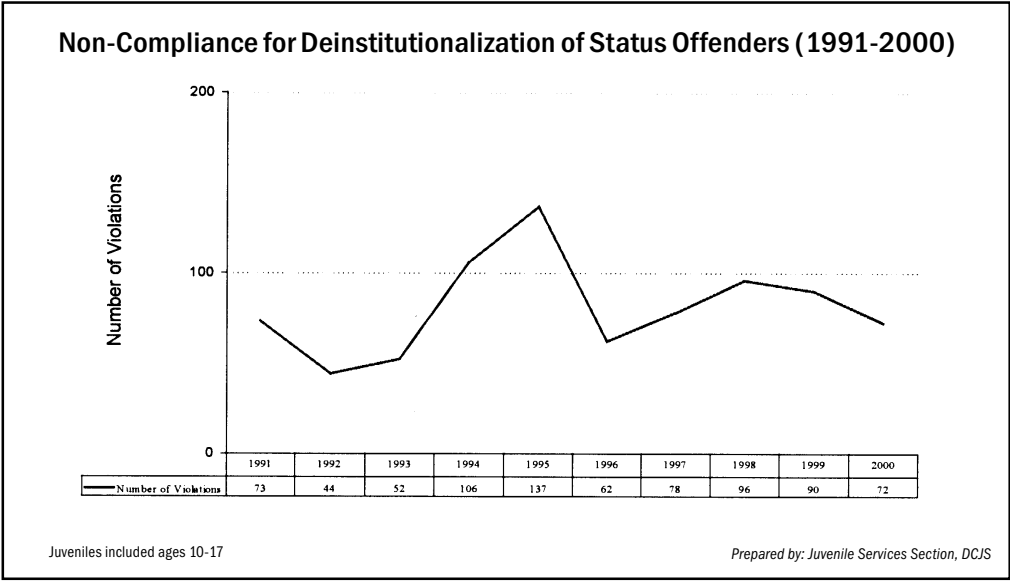
The four core requirements are summarized below. Data are provided showing Virginia's record of compliance with the core requirements.

### Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders

Juveniles who are charged with or adjudicated for conduct that would not be criminal if committed by an adult are status offenders. Neither status offenders nor non-offenders such as abused and neglected children may be placed in secure detention facilities or correctional facilities. Status offenders include, but are not limited to, truants, runaways, and minors in possession of alcohol<sup>12</sup>. Violations of the JJDP Act occur when accused status offenders are held in secure juvenile detention centers for more than 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, and when adjudicated status offenders are held for any length of time in secure detention centers or any adult jail or municipal lockup. Abused and neglected children may not be placed in secure detention facilities under any circumstances.

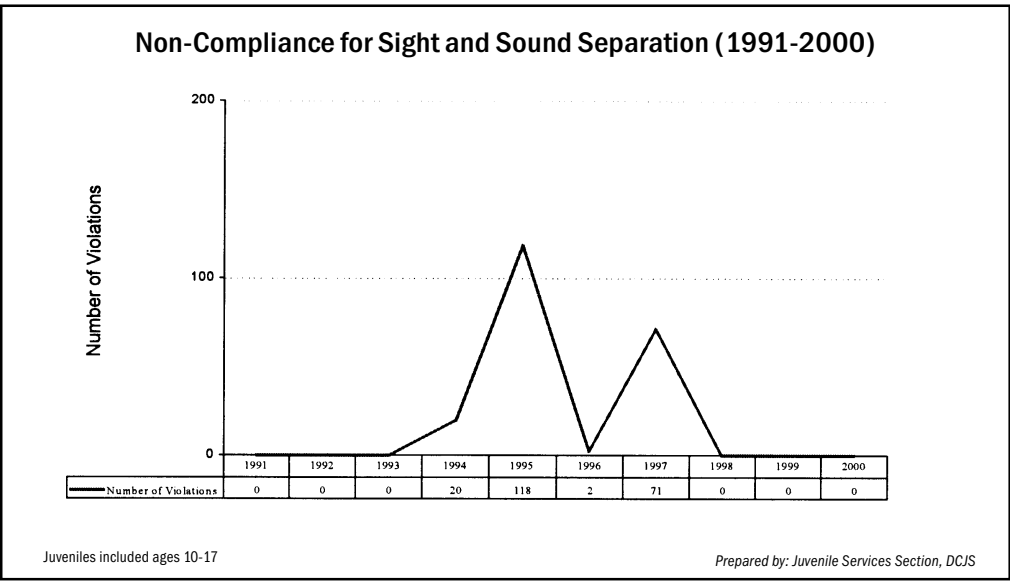
Despite prohibitions within the *Code of Virginia*, and federal regulations addressing the deinstitutionalization of status offenders and non-offenders, on occasion violations are recorded. As can be seen in the figure below, they are few: in calendar year 2000, 72 violations occurred, 67 of which were accused status offenders held pursuant to the interstate Compact as runaway youth. They generally derive from limited access to alternative residential placements and programs. Virginia has worked to improve the gaps in the continuum of pre- and post-dispositional alternatives through the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act and by establishing the deinstitutionalization of status offenders as the priority in the awarding of new grants to jurisdictions already in compliance.

<sup>12</sup> In the Commonwealth of Virginia, possession of alcohol by a minor is a criminal offense.



### Sight and Sound Separation

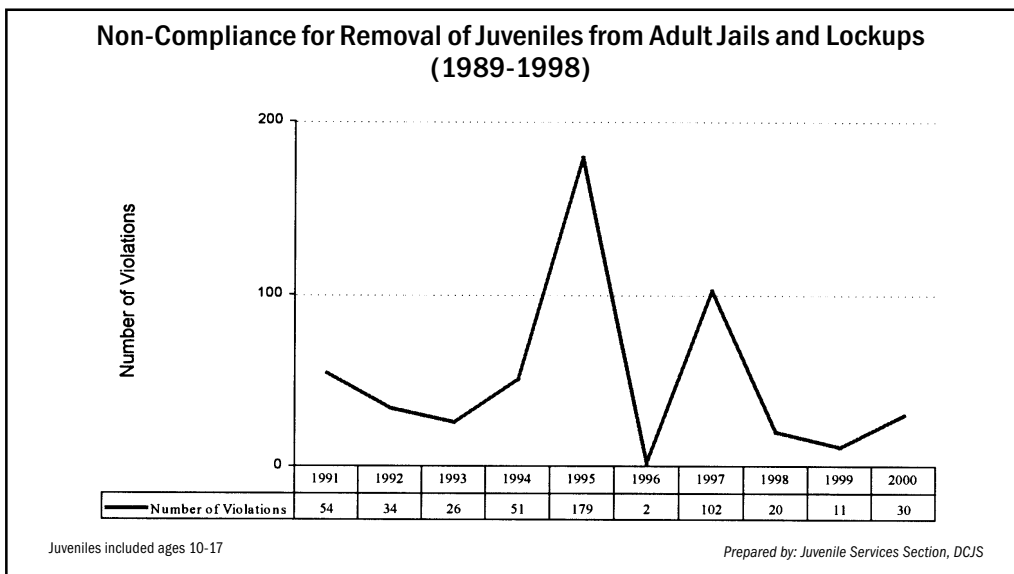
The JJDP Act provides that during the temporary period that a juvenile may be held in an adult jail or lockup, no sight or sound contact is permitted between the juvenile and adult inmates. Virginia law prohibits the placement of a juvenile in any secure adult facility that has not been approved by the Department of Corrections for the detention of juveniles. Sight and sound separation is a requirement for approval. The Department of Criminal Justice Services collaborates with the Department of Corrections' certification team to ensure that uniform standards of sight and sound separation are used throughout the Commonwealth. A facility that exhibits a pattern of violations is subject to losing its certification to hold juveniles from the Board of Corrections. As the figure below shows, there have been no violations since 1997.



The *Code of Virginia* permits co-located facilities, that is, adult and juvenile facilities located on the same site<sup>13</sup>. A workgroup with representation from the Departments of Criminal Justice Services, Juvenile Justice, and Corrections has developed compliance and regulatory protocols related to co-located facilities. Each agency has responsibility for different aspects of the facility certification and monitoring. Currently, Virginia has three co-located juvenile detention facilities: Northwestern Regional Juvenile Detention Center, located on the grounds of the Clark, Frederick, Winchester Regional Jail Complex; Merrimac Juvenile Detention Center located on the grounds of the Middle Peninsula Regional Jail Complex in Williamsburg, and Rappahannock Juvenile Detention Home, on the site of the Rappahannock Adult Regional Jail Complex. All are in compliance with federal and state regulations for co-location of juvenile secure detention facilities.

## Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups

Juveniles accused of committing a delinquent act may be held in temporary custody, not to exceed 6 hours, at an adult jail or lockup for purposes of identification, processing, interrogation, transfer to a juvenile facility, court appearance or release to parents (jail removal). This federal jail removal exception includes 6-hour time periods both immediately before and after a court appearance, provided that the juvenile has no sight and sound contact with incarcerated adults during this time. The 1998 Virginia legislature revised the Virginia Code, which previously allowed only six hours combined before and after a court hearing, to parallel the federal code. There have been few violations of this requirement; in calendar year 2000, there were 30.



There is one exception to Virginia's law prohibiting the placement of juveniles in jails. Section 16.1-249.E of the Code of Virginia allows a judge to transfer a juvenile who is 14 years or older from a secure juvenile detention facility to an adult facility if it is determined that his/her presence is a demonstrated threat to the safety or security of other juveniles or staff of the juvenile facility. Under such placements, the separation and supervision requirements for juveniles within an adult facility must be met. The 30 violations in calendar year 2000 fell under this exception.

<sup>13</sup> A co-located facility is defined as a separate juvenile detention facility, located upon the site of an adult regional facility approved by the Department of Juvenile Justice and certified by the Department of Corrections.

## **Disproportionate Representation of Minority Youth in Secure Facilities**

Under the JJDP Act, states must address the disproportionate representation of minority youth in secure facilities, where such conditions exist. Training of juvenile justice professionals and service providers, system improvements in juvenile court processes, legal representation of youth, sentencing alternatives, and law enforcement are all integral parts of Virginia's strategy.

The 1996 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission recommended that the judiciary engage in a voluntary assessment of race neutral sentencing. A Race Neutral Sentencing Committee has been operating since 1996. The Supreme Court of Virginia has received a multi-year State Justice Institute Grant to provide cultural competency training for judges, magistrates and clerks at all levels of Virginia's Judiciary. It has also addressed the growing issue of language barriers to the administration of justice. Criteria for qualifying translators for court have been established.

Virginia has examined policies and procedures to ensure appropriate confinement release criteria, parole services, and community-based treatment for minority youth in the juvenile justice system in Virginia.

### **Minority Overrepresentation Indices**

The "at risk" juvenile population of Virginia (aged 10 to 17) is comprised of 64.0% juveniles classified as white, 23.1% juveniles classified as black and 13.0% juveniles classified as of other racial origin. Those classified as of other racial origin include who identify themselves as Hispanic/Latino (5.9%), Asian and Pacific islanders (3.5%), and American Indians/Alaskan Natives (less than 1%), of other racial origin (less than 1%) or of more than one racial origin (2.9%)<sup>14</sup>.

To compute indices to determine whether minority juveniles are over-represented at various stages in the juvenile justice system, the percentage of a minority at that stage is divided by the percentage in the juvenile at risk population. For example, the percentage of arrests of juveniles classified as black is divided by the percentage of juveniles classified as black in the at-risk juvenile population. This provides an index that will be 1.0 if juveniles in the justice system are represented exactly as they are in the population. If the index is above 1.0, they are over-represented; if it is under 1.0, they are underrepresented. The minority population is depicted as total minority, black, and other racial origin.

These data were collected from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the Virginia State Uniform Crime Reports (to 1998 only) and the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice.

The following figure displays the state indices for secure detention and correctional centers for the period 1995 to 2000. Arrest data are shown for 1995 to 1998<sup>15</sup>. Equivalency in the population and system, that is 1.0, is shown as a dotted line in each graph. The vertical axes range from 0 to 3.0.

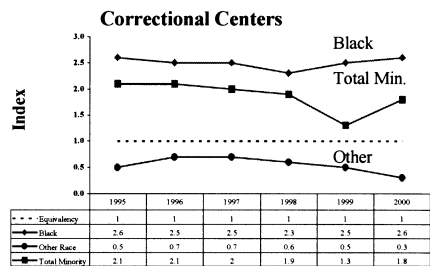
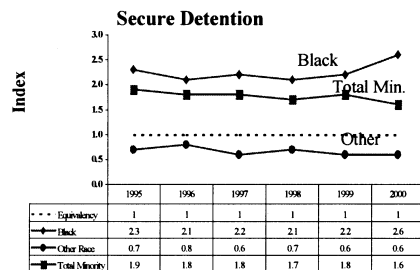
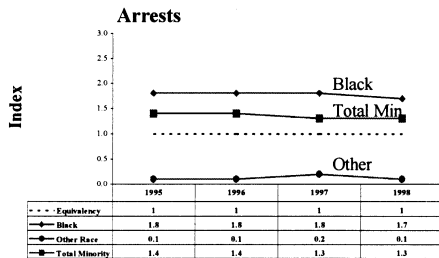
For each graph, juveniles classified as black are over-represented in the juvenile justice system and the population classified as of other racial origin is underrepresented relative to their representation in the population. The temporal trend shows little change over the six-year period.

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<sup>14</sup> Percentages are based on Census Bureau population data from the 2000 Census.

<sup>15</sup> Arrest data for 1999 are unreliable.

## Disproportionate Minority Confinement Indices for Juvenile Arrests and Detention (1995-1999)



Data Sources: Criminal Justice Research Center, DCJS  
Department of Juvenile Justice Summary Reports

Prepared by: Juvenile Services Section, DCJS



## *Other Department of Criminal Justice Services Programs for Juveniles*

DCJS offers a variety of programs for juveniles, described briefly below, that are not under the purview of the JJDP Advisory Committee. Some programs reside in the Juvenile Services Section and the Virginia Crime Prevention Center. Officials in several units of DCJS administer the juvenile drug court program. For further information about them, contact the Department or see the website at [www.dcjs.state.va.us](http://www.dcjs.state.va.us).

### **Juvenile Services Section**

The DCJS Juvenile Services Section administers several programs for children and juveniles other than those governed by the JJDP Act. Byrne Memorial Fund grants are a response to the increase in juvenile involvement in illegal drug and alcohol activities. Juvenile Accountability and Incentive Block Grants (JAIBG) aim to combat youth violence. Programs for abused and neglected children are aimed at reducing trauma to child victims. Further information about the programs is available on the departmental web site (choose Juvenile Services), [www.dcjs.state.va.us](http://www.dcjs.state.va.us).

### **Bureau of Justice Assistance Byrne Memorial Fund Grants**

The Byrne Memorial Fund grant program, funded through the Bureau of Justice Assistance Byrne Memorial Funds, has evolved over the years from strictly substance abuse services to now include crime prevention and control. The Juvenile Services Section of DCJS administers only a portion of the Byrne funds allocated to the Commonwealth. Collaboration among the several DCJS units administering Byrne funds assists in creating a system of program planning and funding opportunities for substance abuse services to juveniles. A large portion of Byrne funds is awarded for School Resource Officer programs throughout the state and administered by the DCJS Crime Prevention Center. Another significant portion of Byrne funds supports the Governor's SABRE (Substance ABuse Reduction Effort), a three-dimensional program of enforcement, treatment and prevention that targets drug dealers, as well as casual and chronic drug users in the Commonwealth.

Byrne funds administered by Juvenile Services Section have funded a number of professionals in the field of juvenile justice as well substance abuse screening, treatment and prevention programs. Of the 11 projects funded in FY 2000 that are monitored by the Juvenile Services Section, 5 were to localities and 6 to state agencies. Grants totaled approximately \$1,100,000.

### **Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants**

The Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) program was first established in the 1998 federal Appropriations Act. Virginia's allotment for fiscal year 2000 was \$4,836,800. The purposes of the program are to combat violent youth crime through increasing accountability for juvenile criminal offenses and to promote greater accountability throughout the juvenile justice system.

### **Programs for Abused and Neglected Children**

The Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act Programs oversees Children's Justice Act and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program initiatives.

### ***Children's Justice Act Program***

The goal of the Children's Justice Act Program is to foster interdisciplinary, interagency collaboration so that child abuse cases can be investigated and prosecuted effectively and with the least possible trauma to child victims. In FY 1999, there were over 8,000 founded cases of child abuse and neglect in Virginia. Training and technical assistance provided in local communities by DCJS staff reaches 700-800 professionals annually. DCJS staff also represent child and juvenile justice concerns on the State's Child Fatality Review Team, the Governor's Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Coalition on Abuse and Disabilities.

### ***Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA)***

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program is a child advocacy organization that seeks to provide trained volunteers to speak for abused and neglected children who are the subjects of juvenile court proceedings. The CASA program is funded from the State's General Assembly, the Victims of Crime Act, local governments, foundations, United Way, and private donations. As of 2000, there were 25 locally operated CASA programs in Virginia. In FY 2000, 1048 CASA volunteers served 3,597 children. Those 1048 volunteers donated approximately 101,000 hours of work worth over \$1.5 million.

A CASA volunteer's duties include investigation of cases for the purpose of providing written independent factual data to the court, monitoring the cases to assure compliance with court orders, assisting any appointed guardian ad litem in representing a child's needs and best interests, and reporting suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect. CASA programs are initiated, developed, and operated at the local level with regulatory and oversight monitoring by Juvenile Services Section, DCJS.

## **Juvenile Drug Courts**

Over the past 10 years, the incidence of juvenile arrests and intake complaints for narcotics and alcohol-related offenses has increased dramatically. One response to this problem, in Virginia and nationwide, has been the development of drug court programs. Two juvenile drug courts are now operating in Virginia: the Rappahannock Regional Juvenile Drug Treatment Court in Fredericksburg and the Richmond Juvenile Drug Court Program. In addition, the City of Newport News has received federal funding to begin operating a juvenile drug court.

The drug court model<sup>16</sup> includes early identification of defendants in need of treatment; continuous, intense, community-based treatment with judicial supervision; regular hearings before the judge to monitor treatment progress and compliance; increased accountability of the juvenile through a series of graduated sanctions and rewards; and mandatory periodic random drug testing.

Drug court participants move through three phases that decrease intensity of supervision and increase self-responsibility as they progress through the program. Throughout, participants are required to acquire and maintain full-time employment or be enrolled in a full-time educational program. Sanctions are enforced. Participants who fail the program may be placed in secure confinement. For successful participants, graduation from drug court usually occurs 12-18 months after entry to the program.

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<sup>16</sup> For further information about drug courts, see the Virginia Supreme Court publication, *Drug Court Programs in Virginia*, September, 1999 and the U.S. Department of Justice publication, *Juvenile and Family Drug Courts: An Overview*, November, 1996 (available online at [www.usdoj.gov.dcpo](http://www.usdoj.gov.dcpo)).

Because drug courts require rigorous adherence to the program, some eligible offenders choose incarceration or probation instead.

Juvenile drug courts have not been operating long enough in Virginia to measure long term results. However, according to the National Drug Court Institute<sup>17</sup>, individuals who have completed drug court programs successfully, including adults and juveniles, have recidivism rates averaging between 5% and 19%. Comparatively, those who have not completed drug court programs successfully have recidivism rates averaging between 24% and 66%.

## **Virginia Crime Prevention Center**

The Virginia Crime Prevention Center, housed at DCJS, serves as a focal point for crime prevention activity in the Commonwealth. The Center provides leadership, policy development, grant funding, training and technical assistance and conducts research on innovative crime prevention methods, ideas, and trends. As research indicates that many of the most effective crime prevention strategies are those directed at youth, the Crime Prevention Center participates in several initiatives directed at this population. Many of these programs involve a substantial number of law enforcement personnel. Examples are summarized below. For further information on programs and services, see the DCJS web site at [www.dcjs.state.va.us](http://www.dcjs.state.va.us) and choose Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement.

### **School Safety Program**

Established by the General Assembly in 2000, the Virginia Center for School Safety serves as a resource for communities across the State. It supports local school districts and law enforcement agencies in developing and implementing school safety programs through training, technical assistance, resource development and dissemination and partnership building among state and local agencies and organizations. It also conducts research on the latest trends that impact the climate of safety within a school. For further information, see the web site at [www.vaschoolsafety.com](http://www.vaschoolsafety.com).

### **School Resource Officers**

School Resource Officer (SRO) programs were developed in schools to assist in maintaining the safety, order, and discipline of the school community. An officer assigned to a school serves as a peace officer, counselor and instructor of law-related education topics. The goal of having a SRO on site is to ensure early intervention and effective diffusion of potentially violent situations. SROs help to prevent violence by using early intervention strategies with high-risk students and by maintaining high visibility to deter crime. Effective strategies include peer mediation, conflict resolution training, and a referral network of community resources.

### **Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program**

The Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP)<sup>18</sup> is a multidisciplinary interagency case management and information sharing system which enables the juvenile and criminal justice system, schools, mental health, and social service agencies to make more informed decisions regarding juveniles who repeatedly commit serious criminal and delinquent acts. Each SHOCAP is required to supervise serious or habitual juvenile offenders in the community as well as those under probation or parole

<sup>17</sup> Belenko, S. (1998). *Research on Drug Courts, National Drug Court Institute Review*, (1), 1-42.

<sup>18</sup> Established by the General Assembly in the Code of Virginia §16.1-330.1.

supervision. The goal is to enhance current conduct control, supervision and treatment efforts to provide a more coordinated public safety approach to serious juvenile crime, increase the opportunity for success with juvenile offenders, and assist in the development of early intervention strategies.

### **McGruff House Program**

The 1993 General Assembly authorized the establishment of qualifying residences as McGruff Houses, in which the resident adults may provide temporary refuge to any child in immediate emotional or physical danger or in immediate fear of abuse or neglect.

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